

Reconsideration of this application and pending claims in view of the amendments and discussion below is respectfully requested.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please enter the amended claim 33 below, the amendments to which are provided in Appendix I.

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33. (Amended) A synthetic antigen presenting matrix for activating CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells comprising:
- a) a support;
  - b) an extracellular portion of a recombinant MHC class II heterodimer operably linked to the support and capable of loading a selected peptide; and
  - c) an extracellular portion of at least one recombinant accessory molecule operably linked to the support such that the extracellular portions of the MHC class II heterodimer and accessory molecule are present on the matrix in sufficient numbers for activating CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells when a peptide is loaded onto the extracellular portion of the heterodimer.
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**REMARKS**

The Examiner has withdrawn claims 34, 37-39, 48-49, 53-55 and 58-60 in view of the restriction requirement. Claim 33 has been amended. After entry of this amendment, claims 33-60 are pending. Applicants believe that no new matter has been introduced by the amendments made herein.

With regard to the comments, objections and rejections presented in the Action by the Examiner, Applicants' response continues below.